

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 171819Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6269

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 0309

EXDIS

STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, US

SUBJ: ENERGY: SOAMES' VIEWS RE US-EC CONSULTATION PRIOR

TO FEBRUARY 11 ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 280 (EXDIS)

1. AT LUNCH ON JANUARY 17, SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES, EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, EXPRESSED THE FOLLOWING VIEWS ABOUT US-EC CONSULTATIONS ON ENERGY.

2. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY RISKY TO HAVE A VISIBLE US-EC DISCUSSION PRIOR TO THE FORMULATION OF THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR THE EC POSITION TO BE TAKEN IN WASHINGTON AT THE FEBRUARY 11 MEETING. HE FLET VERY STRONGLY THAT THE US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT COME TO BRUSSELS BEFORE THE COMMISSION PUT ITS PAPER FORWARD TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. HE SAID THE KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH CONFIDENTIAL

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HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WOULD CERTAINLY LEAK TO MEMBER STATES AND MAKE THEM SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOAMES THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL TO HAVE ANY US VIEWS BEFORE THE COMMISSION PAPER WAS FINALIZED. ACCORDING TO SOAMES, THE PRESENT PLAN IS TO HAVE A MEETING WITH MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES (THE GROUP OF SENIOR ENERGY OFFICIALS CHAIRED BY SPAAK, COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY) TO DISCUSS THE COMMISSION'S IDEAS ON JANUARY 23. THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS WOULD BE PUT INTO FINAL FORM ONLY AFTER THIS MEETING. SOAMES URGED THAT US VIEWS BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH USEC BEFORE JANUARY 23. HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET WITH ME AT ANY TIME ON SHORT NOTICE TO HEAR WASHINGTON'S SUGGESTIONS. IF IT IS FELT NECESSARY TO SEND A WORKING-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE, SOAMES WOULD BE PREPARED TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE APPROPRIATE COMMISSION OFFICIALS, BUT HIS STRONG PREFERENCE IS TO RECEIVE US VIEWS THROUGH THE MISSION SO AS TO AVOID ANY CRITICISM FROM MEMBER STATES THAT THE COMMISSION WAS CONCERTING WITH THE US WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION. HE CALLED LATER TO REINFORCE HIS FIRM OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO HAVE CONSULTATIONS EXCEPT THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS WHILE THE COMMISSION IS PREPARING ITS PAPER. THUS HE IS ON REFLECTION EVEN MORE NEGATIVE ON THE IDEA OF A WORKING-LEVEL VISIT NEXT WEEK.

4. SOAMES URGED THAT THERE BE NO VISIT BY A HIGH-LEVEL US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (PRESUMABLY DONALDSON) BEFORE THE COUNCIL ACTION ON FEBRUARY 4 OR 5. HOWEVER HE RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING US VIEWS TO MEMBER STATES BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 4-5 COUNCIL MEETING. HE THEREFORE SUGGESTS THAT THE US SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE VISIT MEMBER STATE CAPITALS DURING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28 AND COME TO BRUSSELS FEBRUARY 6 TO DISCUSS THE OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS.

5. THE SCENARIO PREFERRED BY SOAMES IS CLOSE TO OUR TENTATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TRANSMITTED IN REFTEL. UNLESS SIMONET EXPRESSES DIFFERENT VIEWS IN OUR MEETING AT 11:00 A.M. JANUARY 18, I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT SOAMES' SUGGESTIONS
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FOR US-EC CONSULTATIONS BE FOLLOWED.GREENWALD

NOTE BY OCT: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. TWOHIE S/S-O.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU00309
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P740001-1306
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740174/abbrzary.tel
Line Count: 101
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: EC BRUSSELS 280 (EXDIS)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jul-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY: SOAMES' VIEWS RE US-EC CONSULTATION PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 11 ENERGY CONFERENCE
TAGS: ENRG, US, EEC
To: STATE INFO BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
THE HAGUE
LONDON
LUXEMBOURG

PARIS
ROME
NATO BRUSSELS
OECD PARIS

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005